

**ONTOLOGY-BASED APPROACH FOR RETRIEVING  
KNOWLEDGE IN AL-QURAN**

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## Abstrak

Capaian maklumat maklumat bergantung kepada data berkaitan yang diperolehi dari satu set sumber pengetahuan, seperti Al-Quran. Pencarian boleh berdasarkan metadata, pengindeksan teks penuh, atau lain-lain yang berasaskan kandungan. Al-Quran adalah kitab yang paling banyak dibaca di dunia dan mengautomatiskan kaedah pencarian pengetahuan dari kesusasteraan agama telah mendorong minat para penyelidik dan ianya amat mencabar. Ini telah membawa kepada pembangunan beberapa aplikasi carian, yang boleh membuat carian pengetahuan berdasarkan kata kunci atau ayat. Mendapatkan pengetahuan daripada ontologi Al-Quran berdepan dengan beberapa masalah asas, iaitu satu daripadanya adalah ketepatan. Dalam kebanyakan kes, pencarian yang tidak boleh mengambil konsep yang berkaitan sesuai dengan ayat-ayat yang berkaitan. Pendekatan semasa menggunakan kaedah konvensional seperti taksonomi, haraki, atau struktur pokok yang hanya menyediakan takrif konsep tema tanpa dikaitkan dengan konsep ilmu yang betul daripada Al-Quran. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan ontologi Al-Quran berdasarkan klasifikasi tematik. Pendekatan kajian yang baru terdiri dari dua peringkat. Peringkat pertama: melibatkan pembangunan ontologi Al-Quran berdasarkan bahasa RDF/OWL melalui alatan Protégé-OWL. Peringkat kedua: melibatkan pembangunan kaedah carian dengan menggunakan rangka kerja JENA yang berasaskan bahasa pengaturcaraan Java. Kaedah carian membolehkan pemprosesan ontologi, dan dilakukan pencarian menggunakan kata kunci yang diberikan dan mendapatkan pengetahuan yang berkaitan dengan kata kunci. Pendekatan carian adalah, dinilai menggunakan ukuran Recall dan Precision yang menunjukkan ketepatan yang tinggi dalam carian pengetahuan ontologi Al-Quran. Tambahan pula, klasifikasi ontologi telah dinilai oleh dua orang pakar dalam bidang pengajian Islam. Kajian ini menyumbang kepada kemudahan pembelajaran dan kefahaman Al-Quran kepada semua orang di semua peringkat umur.

**Kata Kunci:** Ontologi, Capaian Maklumat, Carian Semantik, Pengurusan Pengetahuan, Ilmu Al-Quran.

## Abstract

Information retrieval relies on obtaining relevant data from a set of knowledge resources, such as Al-Quran. Searching can be based on metadata, indexing, or other content-based. Al-Quran is the most widely read book in the world and automating knowledge retrieval from this of religious literature is very challenging. This has led to the development of a number of search applications, which can retrieve knowledge based on keywords. Retrieving the knowledge of Al-Quran ontology includes several fundamental problems, one of which is the lack of accuracy. In most cases, the searching cannot retrieve the relevant concept of knowledge and verses. Current approaches use conventional methods such as taxonomy, hierarchy, or tree structure, which only provide the definition of the concept of themes without linking to the correct knowledge concept of Al-Quran. The main aim of this study is to design a method that uses the ontology approach to search and retrieve relevant verses in Al-Quran. The new approach consists of two stages. The first stage: involves the Al-Quran ontology development based on thematic classification which was implemented using Protégé-OWL. The second stage: involves the development of a search method by using the Jena framework which is based on Java programming languages. The search method allows ontology processing, and performed the searching using the given keywords and retrieve the knowledge pertaining to the keyword. The search approach was evaluated using the Recall and Precision measurements, which shows a high accuracy in retrieving the knowledge of Al-Quran. Furthermore, the ontology classification was evaluated by two experts in Islamic Studies field. This study contributes to the ease of learning and understanding Al-Quran by people of all ages.

**Keywords:** Ontology, Information Retrieval, Semantic Search, Knowledge Management, Al-Quran Knowledge.

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>API</b>	Application Programming Interface
<b>DDL</b>	Data Definition Language
<b>GUI</b>	Graphical User Interface
<b>HTML</b>	Hyper Text Markup Language
<b>IDE</b>	Integrated Development Environment
<b>IS</b>	Information System
<b>JSP</b>	Java Server Pages
<b>OWL</b>	Ontology Web Language
<b>RDBMS</b>	Relational Database Management System
<b>RDF</b>	Resource Description Framework
<b>SQL</b>	Structured Query Language
<b>UML</b>	Unified Modeling Language
<b>URL</b>	Uniform Resource Locator
<b>XML</b>	Extensible Markup Language

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This chapter provides an overview of this research. It includes a background of the study, which focuses on retrieving knowledge in Al-Quran using the ontology approach. Then, the research problem, research questions and research objectives are discussed. This is followed by the scope and significance of this research, at the end.

### **1.2 Background of the Study**

Islamic scholars have described Al-Quran as the holy book of Muslims that teaches morals, purification, and good deeds. Al-Quran provides guidance to mankind, promotes justice between one another, and provides guidance on how to live on earth with neighbors (Ahmad et al., 2013; Yauri, Kadir, Azman, & Murad, 2012). A related study described Al-Quran as the source of information on any subject matter concerning the world and the hereafter (Shoaib, Nadeem Yasin, Hikmat, Saeed, & Khiyal, 2009). In other words, knowledge gained from Al-Quran cannot be compared with scientific books because the former provides real and deep discussions on matters under examination unlike the latter (Ahmad et al., 2013; Shoaib et al., 2009).

The study of Khan, Saqlain, Shoaib, and Sher (2013) emphasized that searches and retrieval of knowledge in Al-Quran sometimes lacks clarity and accuracy due to the non-implementation of sophisticated and dynamic ways for retrieving knowledge or

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